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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON THE TWELFTH SESSION

(25 March–5 April 1991)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1991

SUPPLEMENT No. 9

UNITED NATIONS

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SUMMARY

At its twelfth session, the Committee on Natural Resources gave priority consideration to the question of energy resources. The Committee recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of eight draft resolutions and three draft decisions on the questions it had considered during the session.

In draft resolution I, the Committee recommends that in the preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment, efforts be made to prepare initiatives for integrated water resources development and management. In draft resolution II, the Committee stresses that the ultimate goal of the Mar del Plata Action Plan is to promote the level of preparedness needed to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions and emphasizes that the 1990s will require an intensification of national efforts and international development cooperation in order to ensure the efficient and productive use and management of scarce water resources. In draft resolution III, the Committee calls upon the international community to make technology and financial resources available to the developing countries to enable them to fully develop their potential capability in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and urges financial institutions and donor countries to allocate financial resources to promote technical cooperation projects in developing countries. In draft resolution IV, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its forthcoming session on (a) ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sectors, (b) existing programmes for investment possibilities and (c) recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries. In draft resolution V, the Committee encourages the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat to continueto play an active role in providing advisory services to support Governments in exercising their inalienable right of permanent sovereighty over their natural resources. In draft resolution VI, the Committee calls on the developed countries to share more of their technical capacity in remote sensing with the developing countries. In draft resolution VII, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forthcoming session an updated report containing an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources, identifying the organizations or units within the United Nations system mandated to carry out work in those fields; the Committee also requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to include in the annual report of that Committee, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1992, a section on the most effective ways and means of enhancing coordination in the mineral and energy sectors. In draft resolution VIII, the Committee welcomes the first replenishment payment received by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and calls upon Member States to consider increasing their financial support for the Fund.

In draft decision II, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate the activities being undertaken within the United Nations system regarding disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources.

The Committee also decided to request its Chairman to invite, on an experimental basis, if and when feasible, experts in the field of natural resources to hold an informal exchange of views on trends and salient issues in the field of natural resources (decision 12/101).

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International Conference on Water and the Environment*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be convened in 1992,

Recalling also the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Water Conference held at Mar del Plata from 14 to 25 March 1977,

Noting with appreciation that the World Meteorological Organization, on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system with programmes in fresh water that are represented in the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination will convene, at the government expert level, an International Conference on Water and the Environment in January 1992, as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the kind offer of the Government of Ireland to act as host for that Conference, hereinafter called the Dublin Conference,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and, in that connection, stressing the relevance for the Dublin Conference of the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990, 2/

Welcoming the comprehensive documentation on integrated water resources development submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session,

1. Stresses the need for an action-oriented outcome of the Dublin Conference in order to enable it to make a significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

1/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

2/ A/C.2/45/3, annex.

2. Recommends that in the preparations for the Dublin Conference efforts be made to prepare initiatives for integrated water resources development and management, containing, where feasible, targets, timetables and cost-estimates in the form of international action programmes and possible guidelines to enable Governments to formulate their national action plans;

3. Affirms the vital importance of water as a finite and fragile resource as well as of the effective development and management of water at appropriate administrative levels;

4. Calls upon the governing bodies and secretariats of appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to submit, within their respective mandates and in close collaboration with Governments and the secretariats of the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, substantive contributions to the Dublin Conference;

5. Invites all Governments to engage actively in the preparatory process leading up to the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to contribute to that process;

6. Calls upon the inter-agency steering committee established by the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the purpose of preparing for the Dublin Conference to take fully into account the views expressed by Governments throughout the preparatory process when preparing the documentation for the Dublin Conference;

7. Invites the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, as the convener of the Dublin Conference, and on behalf of the participating United Nations agencies, to report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session on the state of preparations for the Dublin Conference.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 3/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

3/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

4/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 1/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/7 of 22 May 1989, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session a comprehensive report on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Alarmed at the fact that at the end of the Decade one in three people in the developing countries still lacks access to water and sanitation services,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s; 5/

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources; 6/

3. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the objectives and recommendations contained therein, affirms the endorsement by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/181 of the four guiding principles, the actions recommended and the proposed follow-up enunciated in the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990, 2/ and recognizes that the New Delhi Statement constitutes a positive step towards the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

4. Stresses that the ultimate goal of the Mar del Plata Action Plan is to promote the level of preparedness needed to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions through the efficient and productive use and management of scarce water resources, which are vital to development, taking into consideration environmental concerns, including those related to the semi-arid and arid regions of developing countries;

5. Emphasizes that the 1990s will require an intensification of national efforts and international development cooperation in order to ensure the efficient and productive use and management of scarce water resources;

6. Reaffirms the urgent need for new strategies for integrated water resources development and management, including strategies in the areas of finance and technology, to manage the growing demand for water and to achieve long-term sustainability of the water resources sector;

5/ E/C.7/1991/8.

6/ E/C.7/1991/10.

7. Stresses the need to strengthen and increase international assistance, including technical assistance, human resources development and exchange of information, to support the efforts of developing countries;

8. Urges the appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assign a high degree of priority to activities, projects and programmes related to water resources undertaken at all levels by developing countries;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session, for consideration and follow-up, an analytical report on the progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan containing recommendations for future action at the national and international levels and a summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a compendium of legislative mandates relevant to water resources adopted by the entities of the United Nations system concerned.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Development and efficient use of energy resources*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 3/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 40/208 of 17 December 1985 and 45/209 of 21 December 1990 on the development of the energy resources of developing countries,

Recalling further its resolutions 1987/10 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/6 of 22 May 1989,

Recognizing that revitalization of the economic growth and development of developing countries and the process of integration into the world economy of economies in transition may lead in certain cases to an increase in energy demand,

Recognizing also that in view of increased energy demand, new and additional investments and strengthened energy policies, including conservation and efficient management of energy resources, will be needed to prevent energy shortages,

Concerned that energy shortages in developing countries are causing serious disruption of economic activities,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

Affirming that the exploitation of energy sources in developing countries, including available hydropower potential and other sources of energy, if adequately developed with appropriate capital and technological inputs, could contribute to the solution of energy shortages in those countries,

Reaffirming that the developing countries have the primary responsibility for their strategies and policies for the exploration and development of their energy resources, including the need to mobilize financial resources, internal and external, in order to develop their national technical skills and capabilities in the energy sector,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on energy resources; 7/

2. Reaffirms the need for the United Nations system to intensify its efforts to promote the international exchange of experience and knowledge and the flow of efficient technologies, especially new and emerging ones, to developing countries;

3. Acknowledges the need to facilitate access for developing countries to energy efficient technologies and research and, in that context, calls upon the United Nations system and developed countries, to support the development of national endeavours of developing countries as well as regional and interregional cooperation;

4. Calls upon the international community, including developed countries, to make technology and financial resources available to the developing countries to enable them to fully develop their potential capability in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, including their vast hydropower potential;

5. Urges multilateral and regional financial institutions, as well as donor countries, to allocate financial resources to promote programmes and technical cooperation projects in support of the development of energy resources in the developing countries;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on trends and salient issues in energy, containing information on ways and means of enhancing both energy efficiency and conservation, as well as of increasing the development of economically viable energy resources, and also containing the relevant conclusions and recommendations of international and regional seminars, workshops and conferences, organized by the United Nations, that address energy issues;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a report on the ways and means by which the energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade could correspond;

7/ E/C.7/1991/9, E/C.7/1991/12 and E/C.7/1991/13.

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a report on programmes under way and planned for human resources development in the field of energy, including measures for required institutional strengthening through advisory services, on-the-job training, external fellowships and comprehensive training packages.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 3/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/

Recalling also its resolutions 1985/47 of 25 July 1985, 1987/8 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/5 of 22 May 1989 concerning mineral resources,

Stressing the significance of mineral resources in the economic and social development of the developing countries,

Reaffirming the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Recognizing the need for substantial flows of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to enable them to explore and develop their mineral resources,

Acknowledging the important role that the United Nations system can play in the field of mineral resources, through, inter alia, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the invaluable impact of small-scale mining on the economic and social development process of the developing countries and its identification as an economic activity providing significant employment opportunities,

Aware of the need to balance small-scale mining operations with the improvement of social working conditions and benefits and the consideration of health and safety hazards,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" 8/ and "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities"; 9/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sectors;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to include in that report information on existing programmes - governmental, intergovernmental and, to the extent possible, private - as well as proposals for investment possibilities in developing countries to support the efforts of developing countries in securing the investments they require for the development of their mineral resources;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in that report the conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars related to mineral resources, in particular the Conference on Mining and Environment, to be held in Berlin in June 1991, and to include information on the feasibility of establishing geological information systems in developing countries to assist in the development of mineral resources, for consideration of and follow-up action by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Natural Resources on recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding the activities of enterprises in this area, as well as on progress achieved in the establishment of demonstration and training projects for the transfer of small-scale mining technology and methods and on national approaches and international cooperation for maximizing the benefits of small-scale mining for economic and social development in developing countries; the report should include information on the economic contribution of women in small-scale mining.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 3/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/

Recalling its resolutions 1987/12 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/10 of 22 May 1989,

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* For the discussion, see chap. V.

8/ E/C.7/1991/4.

9/ E/C.7/1991/5.

Reaffirming that all countries, in particular developing countries, have the inherent and sovereign right to determine freely the use of their natural resources,

Stressing the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to make the optimum use of their natural resources in order to strengthen and promote their economic and social development,

Concerned about the present international economic situation, in particular its impact on developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources; 10/

2. Reaffirms the importance of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

3. Encourages the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat to continue to play an active role in providing advisory services to Governments, at their request, to support them in exercising their inalienable right of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, inter alia, in exploring for, developing and managing their natural resources, as well as advisory services for policy and planning, legislation and taxation, contract negotiation and contract auditing and management, and investment promotion and financing, and encourages the Department to continue to organize seminars that bring together experts and representatives of international companies and developing countries;

4. Takes note of the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, which is the focal point for matters related to transnational corporations and which is concerned with the whole range of issues that arise in dealing with relations between host countries and transnational corporations in various sectors, and encourages the Centre to continue to provide information and analysis to Governments, at their request, aimed at strengthening their capabilities, based on the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a concise, updated report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing

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* For the discussion, see chap. VI.

10/ E/C.7/1991/6.

Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 3/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 on principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space,

Recalling its resolutions 1987/9 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/8 of 22 May 1989 on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources,

Bearing in mind the important role of remote-sensing data in the process of identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources,

Recognizing the need for developing countries to have access to the information obtained by remote sensing in order to optimize the use of their natural resources,

Stressing the contribution that developed countries can make in assisting the developing countries to integrate satellite remote-sensing data into their national mapping programmes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data; 11/

2. Calls upon the developed countries to share more of their technical capacity in remote sensing with the developing countries;

3. Recommends that the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat, in cooperation with appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and with the assistance of satellite launching States and organizations, to compile, for dissemination to developing countries, information on new data sets and the conditions under which such data can be obtained and the modalities for doing so;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to strengthen the capability of the developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques for the identification and subsequent exploration, exploitation and development of natural resources through workshops, seminars and training courses to be organized at the regional or country level in developing countries;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

11/ E/C.7/1991/7.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources*

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind section I of General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and, in particular, programme 19 of the medium-term plan, on natural resources,

Recalling its resolutions 1987/13 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/12 of 22 May 1989,

Convinced of the need to increase the effectiveness and relevance of the work of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,

Stressing the crucial role of natural resources for economic growth and development, particularly that of the developing countries,

Welcoming the enhanced coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources, particularly in water resources,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources; 6/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session an updated report containing an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources, identifying the organizations or units within the United Nations system mandated to carry out work in those fields and assessing the extent to which the guidelines provided by the Committee have been followed;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the coordination mechanisms on water and sanitation issues, including the inter-agency Steering Committee for Cooperative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to include in the annual report of the Committee, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1992, a section on the most effective ways and means of enhancing coordination in the mineral and energy sectors;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a compilation of the relevant decisions emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of natural resources for priority consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session.

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* For the discussion, see chap. VII.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVII) of 17 December 1973 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, concerning the establishment of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Recalling also its resolutions 87/11 of 26 May 1987 and 89/9 of 22 May 1989,

Recognizing the important role of the Fund in providing assistance to developing countries in the development of their natural resources,

Noting the efforts made to sustain the activities of the Fund despite limited financial support,

Noting also the requirement of continued financial support for the Fund, bearing in mind the need to ensure its revolving nature through replenishment contributions,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; 12/

2. Welcomes the first replenishment payment received by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration as a result of the discovery and exploitation of a chromite deposit in the Philippines, and notes the active participation of the Fund in connection with the successful discovery of a high-grade silver deposit in Ecuador;

3. Takes note of the efforts made to reduce administrative costs by integrating the management of the Fund with that of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development;

4. Calls upon Member States to consider increasing their financial support for the Fund, in particular by means of voluntary contributions.

B. Draft decisions

2. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

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* For the discussion, see chap. IX.

12/ DP/1991/44.

DRAFT DECISION I

International Conference on Water and the Environment*

The Economic and Social Council decides to transmit draft resolution II above, entitled "International Conference on Water and the Environment", to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, to be held at Geneva from 12 to 30 August 1991.

DRAFT DECISION II

Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources**

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system concerning disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources, 13/ requests the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate, through existing mechanisms, the activities being undertaken by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as they relate to disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources, and to present an oral updated report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session.

DRAFT DECISION III

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Committee set out below:

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

** For the discussion, see chap. VIII.

13/ E/C.7/1991/11.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (draft resolution II above, operative para. 9)

   Compendium of legislative mandates relevant to water resources adopted by the entities of the United Nations system concerned (draft resolution II above, operative para. 10)

4. Mineral resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries, including information on investment possibilities in developing countries and recommendations of meetings related to mineral resources (draft resolution IV above, operative paras. 2, 3 and 4)

   Report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining activities in developing countries (draft resolution IV above, operative para. 5)

5. Energy resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (draft resolution III above, operative para. 6)

   Report of the Secretary-General on the ways and means by which the energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade could correspond (draft resolution III above, operative para. 7)

   Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development in the field of energy (draft resolution III above, operative para. 8)

6. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on efforts to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques (draft resolution VI above, operative para. 5)

7. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

Documentation

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

8. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (draft resolution V above, operative para. 5)

9. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources.

Documentation

Oral report of the Secretary-General (draft decision II above)

10. Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources and biennial programme of work and priorities of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General updating an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources (draft resolution VII above, operative para. 2)

Report of the Secretary-General containing a compilation of relevant decisions emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of natural resources (draft resolution VII above, operative para. 5)

11. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Committee.

12. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirteenth session.

C. Decision of the Committee brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision of the Committee is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 12/101. Panel of experts on natural resources

The Committee on Natural Resources, mindful of the need to optimize its functions so that it may discharge its responsibilities, decides to request its Chairman to invite, on an experimental basis, if and when feasible but preferably six months before the convening of its thirteenth session, experts in the field of natural resources to hold an informal exchange of views on trends and salient issues in the field of natural resources, within existing resources; this decision shall not prejudice the ongoing process of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Chapter II

ENERGY RESOURCES

4. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd, 7th and 10th meetings, on 25 and 26 March and 1 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (E/C.7/1991/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on energy-saving strategies and measures to improve the efficient utilization of electric power systems (E/C.7/1991/12);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation programmes on the exploration, development and efficient use of energy resources (E/C.7/1991/13).

5. The representative of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development noted the critical importance of energy efficiency measures, especially with regard to electricity. In developing countries, physical infrastructure was deteriorating rapidly, mainly owing to the lack of systematic plant maintenance, as indicated in the report to the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1991/12). Systematic maintenance costs should be regarded as an investment to protect basic equipment so as to guarantee high availability and efficiency and extend the economic life of a power plant. While the rehabilitation of a plant might be technically difficult, case studies showed that the cost per kilowatt of rehabilitated capacity could be one fourth the cost for the same capacity in a completely new plant and that the implementation time was also significantly shorter.

6. Losses in the transmission and distribution of electric power were often unacceptably high in many developing countries, sometimes accounting for up to one fourth of the power generated. While technical losses could be reduced by lowering the resistance and the reactive power flow and increasing the system voltage, cutting non-technical losses raised administrative problems since they often related to the accuracy of computerized billing, damaged meters or the inability of poorer sectors of the population to pay for electricity.

7. Regional power system interconnections were especially attractive to developing countries since they resulted in lower generation costs, lower reserve capacities and increased supply security. That was especially beneficial when smaller national grids were interconnected. Power system planning, which in general was highly computerized, and training should receive particular attention. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/C.7/1991/13 provided an overview of technical cooperation project activities in energy. In 1990, the Department executed 106 energy projects in 40 developing countries with budgets of around $22 million in a wide variety of subsectoral areas, including energy policy and planning, power plant rehabilitation and modernization, greater energy end-use efficiency and conservation in the industrial, transportation, residential, commercial and rural sectors, modernization of coal mines, and development of new and renewable sources of energy. The report summarized the Department's active programme of international meetings, research, publications and software development in support of technical cooperation activities in energy.

8. The representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs noted that the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/C.7/1991/9 offered a broad and long-range perspective of energy demand and suppply and of the policy issues to which they gave rise.

9. The analysis was conducted at the global level, but the energy needs, resources and prospects of developing countries were given particular attention. The time horizon extended through approximately the first two decades of the next century. The link between energy and the environment was treated at some length.

10. The composition of gross domestic output would be the most important variable influencing energy intensity, for most countries. Trends in product mix would probably work towards a falling energy intensity of production in the developed country group and a rising intensity in the developing countries. Technological progress would be the second principal factor influencing future energy intensity, but eventually such progress had to be embodied in more energy-efficient durable goods, if it was to reduce the rate at which energy was used to perform particular tasks. Technological innovation would then become an investment problem.

11. In considering energy intensity and economic efficiency, movement towards higher-energy intensity in a society was not necessarily inconsistent with movement towards a more economically efficient employment of energy.

12. On the supply side of the energy picture, mankind did not face any absolute physical shortage of energy; it did, however, confront the challenge of transforming an enormous theoretical potential into an adequate practical potential. The research underlying the report involved a large number of specific fuels and energy forms. The most important fossil fuels and those fuels and renewable energy flows in which the Economic and Social Council expressed a particular interest in its resolution 1989/6 were accorded separate treatment. In each case, the outlook for the energy source's technological maturation and costs of production and the constraints peculiar to it were discussed. Investigation of those factors provided a basis for an appreciation of the practical potential of the energy source and the grounds for a realistic assessment of the prospects for that potential being realized during the next few decades.

13. On the role of public policy, particular attention was paid to the relationship between energy policy and environmental policy. Achievement of economic efficiency in the production and use of energy was posited as the basic, though not necessarily the exclusive, goal of public policy towards energy, and competitive markets were seen as the most frequently employed institutional device to attain that goal. However, in some situations, competitive markets did not, even in principle, lead to economically efficient production or use of energy. One example was a situation in which environmental damage occurred incidentally to the production of energy. The aim of policy in such situations was to induce the individual energy enterprise to produce at the socially optimal rate, either through internalization of the environmental costs to the enterprise by taxation or through direct governmental mandates. Thus, environmental policy, at least in its relationship to energy, could be viewed as simply energy policy in which the benefits and costs of energy production and use were seen in a sufficiently broad perspective.

14. With regard to the expansion of energy production capacity in developing countries, the main obstacle to the transformation of energy resources into tangible production capacity was the problem of financing the required investment. Among measures to alleviate it, the most important was the expansion of the cash flows available to individual energy enterprises, both public and private. Steps to improve the efficiency of capital markets in developing countries could also assist in the financing of energy investment and in the whole spectrum of developmental finance. Foreign equity participation could play an important role in the same process. International and national development institutions could provide a vital catalytic function in the early exploratory stages of resource exploitation and assist in financing the later development phase.

15. Most delegations welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General and emphasized the importance of energy to the process of economic growth and development in their own countries; several gave brief surveys of the energy-related challenges and opportunities in their countries. Several delegations recalled that energy had been chosen for special emphasis at the present session of the Committee in order to highlight the crucial role it played in the growth and development of developing countries. Developing countries should anticipate significant growth in energy demand, and technical as well as financial assistance would be needed to meet and restructure future energy consumption.

16. Several representatives raised issues concerning the environment and development. While environmental considerations in energy development were increasing in importance, representatives referred to the conflict that sometimes arose between environmental goals and development priorities. In addition, present mechanisms were inadequate to address both energy-related environmental degradation and disasters. New modalities would be needed to address those issues.

17. Most delegations stressed the need to utilize energy more efficiently in the future, so as to maximize its contribution to economic growth and development. Several representatives pointed out that the continued use of older and less energy-efficient technologies, particularly in industry, increased costs and limited economic expansion. Those delegations emphasized the need for transfer to developing countries of more energy-efficient technologies and for augmentation of the funds supporting such transfer.

18. Considerable attention and commentary were directed at efficiency and conservation in the electric power sector, with emphasis on problems in generation, transmission and distribution. Representatives encouraged the establishment of pilot programmes promoting energy efficiency, including rehabilitation, life extension and modernization of power plants. Inadequate maintenance of outdated equipment was noted as leading to high operating costs as well as reduced availability and reliability. Lack of adequate electricity in rural areas was also mentioned as increasing environmental stress through fuelwood dependence. Finally, representatives pointed out that regional power interconnections would improve availability and reliability at lower cost.

19. The question of increasing energy production capacity in developing countries was also addressed by several delegations. With respect to new and renewable sources of energy, one delegation considered that development of small-scale hydropower provided perhaps the most viable prospect. Another emphasized the potential role of natural gas, in view of the magnitude of the reserves and the relatively benign environmental effects of that fuel. Coal-bed methane recovery

was cited as a proved technology in developed countries with potential commercial and environmental benefits. Several delegations noted that inadequate exploration and development often resulted in excessive energy imports and that scarcity of financial resources had constrained energy resource development. They recommended that the United Nations system and donor countries should assist developing countries, both technically and financially, to exploit and diversify their energy resource base. They stressed the importance of additional funding to assist developing countries to adequately meet environmental impacts arising from energy production, transformation and utilization.

20. One delegation stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between energy-producing and energy-consuming countries since net benefits could be derived by both sides. Such international cooperation could ensure long-term stability. In particular, price stability demanded an orderly expansion of production capacity.

21. Several delegations expressed appreciation for United Nations technical cooperation programmes, and recommended that those programmes be fully supported with the technical and financial resources necessary for them to respond to the needs of developing countries. Most saw the creation of self-sustaining and lasting capacities in recipient developing countries as the basic approach to technical cooperation. The training of technicians, managers and planners, the establishment of regional energy information centres for technical exchange, and the provision of technical advisory services were emphasized by one delegation as specific areas of concentration. Another cited training of national staff in both technical and policy areas as critically important, at both the national and regional levels. One delegation stressed the importance of information systems for energy planning and policy analysis, and recommended that the United Nations enhance its technical cooperation programmes in that area.

22. The representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women made statements on the activities of their organizations in the field of energy.

Action taken by the Committee

Development and efficient use of energy resources

23. At the 7th meeting, on 1 April, the observer for Ghana, 14/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.6) entitled "Development and efficient use of energy resources", which read as follows:

14/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session (General Assembly resolution S-18/3) and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199),

Recalling also Assembly resolutions 40/208 of 17 December 1985 and 45/209 of 21 December 1990 on the development of the energy resources of developing countries,

Recalling further its resolutions 1987/10 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/6 of 22 May 1989,

Recognizing that revitalization of the economic growth and development of developing countries and the process of integration of economies in transition into the world economy will cause an increase in energy demand,

Recognizing also that in view of increased energy demand, new and additional investments and strengthened energy policies will be needed to prevent energy shortages,

Concerned that energy shortages in developing countries are causing serious disruption of economic activities,

Affirming that the exploitation of energy sources in developing countries, including available hydropower potential and other sources of energy, if adequately developed with appropriate capital and technological inputs, could contribute to the solution of energy shortages in those countries,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on energy resources (E/C.7/1991/9, E/C.7/1991/12 and E/C.7/1991/13);

2. Reaffirms the central role that the United Nations system can play in intensifying efforts to promote the international exchange of experience and knowledge and the flow of efficient technologies, especially new and emerging ones, to developing countries;

3. Acknowledges the need to increase access on easier terms of developing countries to energy efficient technologies and research, and in that context, calls upon the United Nations system and developed countries to support the development of national endeavours of developing countries as well as regional and interregional cooperation;

4. Calls upon the international community and, in particular, developed countries, to provide the developing countries with technology and financial resources in order to enable them to fully develop their potential capabilities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, including their vast hydropower potential;

5. Calls also upon multilateral and regional financial institutions, as well as donor countries, to increase their allocation of financial resources, so as to promote programmes and technical cooperation projects to support energy resource development in the developing countries;

6. Encourages exchange of views between producers and consumers of energy, in particular oil, in order to ensure supply and demand on a predictable and stable basis;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources, at its thirteenth session, a report on trends and salient issues in energy, including information on technical cooperation prototype programmes and projects for enhancing both energy efficiency and conservation, and increasing the development of economically viable energy resources; the report should also contain the relevant conclusions and recommendations of international and regional seminars, workshops and conferences, organized by the United Nations, addressing energy issues;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a report containing recommendations to bring conformity between energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in General Assembly resolution 45/199 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Committee at its thirteenth session on programmes under way and planned for human resources development in the field of energy, including, inter alia, measures for required institutional strengthening through advisory services, on-the-job training, external fellowships and comprehensive training packages.

24. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.16) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.6.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.16 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

26. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.16, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.6 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Chapter III

WATER RESOURCES

27. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 26 and 27 March and 1, 3 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s (E/C.7/1991/8). A number of background documents on special sectors and issues were made available to the Committee (see para. 29 below).

28. The representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs said that the report was the result of extensive work carried out through the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). In effect, it was a summary of regional studies carried out on critical issues in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the active participation of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the regional commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Issues covered related to water resources assessment, water quality, water for sustainable agricultural development, water resources management, and the need for national capacity-building with regard to institutions and human resources development. On drinking water supply and sanitation, the report summarized the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the achievements of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade 1981-1990 (A/45/327) and the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi in September 1990, as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/181. While providing recommendations for action concerning each of those issues, the report of the Secretary-General emphasized the need for bringing about an integrated approach to the management of water as a finite and fragile resource.

29. The representative of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development provided the Committee with additional information concerning the background documents for the report of the Secretary-General. As a result of the regional studies conducted, a report on water resources assessment had been prepared by WMO and UNESCO. Similarly, FAO had prepared reports on water for agriculture and on an international action programme on water and sustainable agricultural development. A report on water quality issues had been prepared by WHO and UNEP, while the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, in cooperation with the regional commissions, had prepared several reports on planning and management issues. With regard to capacity-building, UNDP had commissioned a consultant report which would be the background document for a symposium on the subject to be held in Delft, the Netherlands, in June 1991.

30. The representative of UNDP, on behalf of the Chairman of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, said that the Council's mission was to enhance collaboration among developing countries and external support agencies, and that its goals were as follows: to provide a forum for sector professionals to identify, review and seek consensus on key sector issues, and to ensure widespread

dissemination of the results; to alert members to opportunities for more efficient use of resources; to increase awareness of the need for intensified effort to expand sustainable coverage and effective use during the 1990s; to promote and enhance collaboration at the country level; and to stimulate the adoption of more harmonious policies, strategies and programmes. The membership of the Council was open to sector professionals in national sector agencies of developing countries and to external support agencies active in the water supply and sanitation sector. The representative of UNDP also gave a brief description of issues related to capacity-building, as contained in the background document on the subject, and of activities of the joint UNDP/World Bank programme on water supply and sanitation and the UNDP Programme for the Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Services.

31. The representative of WMO described the process involved in the preparation of the background document on water resources assessment as a result of the regional studies and discussed issues and conclusions arising from those studies. In addition, he provided detailed information on preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment, to be held in Dublin in January 1992, which WMO was convening on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Similarly, the representative of FAO described the process involved in the preparation of the report on the regional studies on water for agriculture and the international action programme on water and sustainable agricultural development. He also provided information about relevant activities of FAO.

32. The representative of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) said that in developing countries women were usually affected primarily by problems arising from water shortage and land degradation. Consequently, women needed to be increasingly involved in the protection and conservation of water resources and in the provision of water supply and sanitation services. The crucial role of women in various aspects of water supply and sanitation was recognized fully during the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi, and at meetings of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the inter-agency Steering Committee for Cooperative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

33. Representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) provided information on the activities of their organizations. The representative of ECLAC drew the attention of the Committee to proposals on fresh-water quality and supply contained in the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development, adopted by the ministers and representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries members of ECLAC that had participated in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

34. During the discussion, delegations provided information on national experiences and expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the analysis and proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report and for the extensive background documentation prepared through the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources. Some delegations emphasized the importance of the concept of the integrated management of water as a finite and fragile resource and the need

for an integrated approach to land and water management. A number of delegations also stressed the need to develop strategies and action plans at the global, national and river-basin levels, as well as at the local and community levels, and the need for the participation in the decision-making process of all interests concerned - in particular, the participation of women. In dealing with issues of water environment, the need for more comprehensive studies of the geological environment, including the impact of mining and industrial activities on water quality was cited, as those data could provide a more reliable basis for further development planning. Some delegations also emphasized the need to intensify technical cooperation activities and technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as the need to increase the financial assistance provided to developing countries.

35. Some delegations expressed support for the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin, January 1992), affirming the vital importance of water as an economic good and a finite and fragile resource. Some delegations expressed the view that the Dublin Conference should aim at developing guidelines and time-frames to enable Governments to formulate action plans for integrated water resources development and management as well as international action programmes. They stressed the need for an action-oriented outcome of the Dublin Conference as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and urged the active participation of Governments in the preparatory process for the Dublin Conference; delegations called upon the inter-agency steering committee for the Dublin Conference to take fully into account the views expressed by Governments throughout the preparatory process.

Action taken by the Committee

International Conference on Water and the Environment

36. At the 2nd meeting, on 26 March, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Denmark, Finland, 15/ Norway 15/ and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.3) entitled "Preparation for the International Conference on Water and the Environment", which read as follows:

> The Committee on Natural Resources,
>
> Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will be convened in 1992,
>
> Noting with appreciation that the World Meteorological Organization, on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system with programmes in fresh water that are represented on the Administrative Committee on Coordination Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, will convene an International Conference on Water and the Environment in January 1992 as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the kind offer of the Government of Ireland to host that Conference, hereinafter called the Dublin Conference,

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15/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990, and in this connection stressing the relevance for the Dublin Conference of the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990,

Welcoming the comprehensive documentation presented to the Committee on Natural Resources on integrated water resource development,

1. Recommends that in preparing for the Dublin Conference, every effort should be made to prepare action programmes containing, as appropriate, targets, timetables and cost estimates so as to operationalize the outcome of the Conference to the maximum extent possible;

2. Stresses the need for an action-oriented outcome of the Dublin Conference, which should provide the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with important contributions with regard to guidelines and time-frames for the establishment of national action plans for integrated water resources development and management;

3. Draws the attention of Governments to the importance of basing national action plans inter alia on the following basic principles:

(a) The concept of water as a finite and fragile resource;

(b) The concept of water as an economic good;

(c) Effective management of water resources at the appropriate administrative levels;

4. Calls upon the governing bodies and secretariats of relevant organizations of the United Nations system to submit, within their respective mandates and in close collaboration with Governments and the secretariats of the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, substantive contributions to the Dublin Conference;

5. Invites all Governments to engage actively in the preparatory process leading up to the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to contribute to that process;

6. Calls upon the inter-agency steering committee established by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources for the purpose of preparing for the Dublin Conference to take fully into account all views expressed by Governments throughout the preparatory process when preparing the documentation for the Dublin Conference.

37. At the 7th meeting, on 1 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.5) entitled "International Conference on Water and the Environment" proposed by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.3.

38. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.5 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

39. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.5, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.3 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

40. Also at the 7th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council transmit draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.5 entitled "International Conference on Water and the Environment" to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session, to be held at Geneva from 12 to 30 August 1991 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan

41. At the 9th meeting, on 3 April, the observer for Ghana, 15/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.9) entitled "Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan", which read as follows:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session (General Assembly resolution S-18/3), and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199),

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar Del Plata Action Plan,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/7 of 22 May 1989, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session a comprehensive report on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan,

1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s (E/C.7/1991/8);

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources (E/C.7/1991/10);

3. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan, including the objectives and recommendations contained therein, and recognizes that the New Delhi Statement (A/C.2/45/3, annex), adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990, constitutes a positive step towards the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

4. Stresses that the ultimate goal of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan is to promote the level of preparedness needed to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions by the better use and management of water resources, which are vital to development, in particular the development of developing countries;

5. Alarmed at the fact that at the end of the Decade one in three people in the developing countries still lacks access to water and sanitation services;

6. Emphasizes that developing countries, while mindful of their national responsibilities in the field of water resources, have suffered and will continue to suffer because of severe economic, social and environmental problems that undermine their development process and negatively affect their efforts to allocate resources to the development of water resources;

7. Concerned that the current level of investment in the water resources sector is about $US 10 billion a year, while $US 50 billion are estimated to be required to reach full water supply and sanitation coverage by the year 2000;

8. Reaffirms the importance of an urgent need for new strategies in the domains of finance and technology to meet the growing demand for water and to achieve long-term sustainability of the water resources sector;

9. Urges multilateral financial institutions, funding agencies as well as donor Governments to increase their contribution to developing countries in the domain of water resources;

10. Stresses the need to strengthen and increase international assistance, including technical assistance, human resources development and exchange of information, to support the efforts of developing countries;

11. Urges the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assign greater priority to activities, projects and programmes related to water resources undertaken at all levels by developing countries;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session, for consideration and follow-up, a report containing:

(a) A compendium of legislative mandates adopted by the various entities of the United Nations system relevant to water resources;

(b) A summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992;

(c) An update of the necessary information on activities of the United Nations system in water, with data categorized by region and country.

42. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.19) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.9.

43. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark proposed that, in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the words "endorses the four guiding principles" be replaced by the words "affirms the endorsement of the four guiding principles".

44. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.19, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

45. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.19, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.9 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Chapter IV

MINERAL RESOURCES

46. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 4th, 8th and 10th meetings, on 27 March and 1 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" (E/C.7/1991/4);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Small-scale mining prospects: a review of recent activities" (E/C.7/1991/5).

47. The reports were introduced by the Chief of the Mineral Resources Branch of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.

48. The conclusions of the report on small-scale mining were generally supported by the Committee. Speakers agreed that small-scale mining needed to be elevated from an unorganized and unsupervised industry to one that was modern, monitored, organized and supported. The need to encourage cooperatives and associations of small extracting producers or private firms and to find the financial means to restore damaged ecosystems was well recognized, as was the need for specialized training programmes.

49. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said that ILO was involved in technical cooperation in several developing countries, in an attempt to improve safety and health in mines. ILO activities were geared to providing mining operations with greater access to training, technology, marketing and other infrastructure and to assisting them in complying with existing regulations.

50. Jobs created in small-scale mines should conform with national and international labour standards and be subject to inspection. There were no ILO standards dealing specifically with the safety and health of mine workers. A survey would be prepared by ILO on working conditions in underground and surface mines in order to assess safety and health conditions, working time, welfare facilities, rescue operations and implications for the environment, the results of which, together with two existing codes of practice on safety and health in mines, would serve as the basis for the possible development of a mining convention.

51. One delegation said that the importance of cooperation among countries in the area of environmental protection could have been better reflected in the report. Developing countries whose experiences were mentioned in the report were invited to give more detailed information on their small-scale mining activities and prospects. The lack of reliable statistics on small-scale mining and of a practical definition of small-scale mining was viewed by the delegation as a constraint to alleviating problems in that segment of the extractive industry.

52. Another delegation noted that small-scale mining in its country accounted for one third of all mining output, provided jobs for people in rural areas and

enhanced prosperity in those areas. Problems of negative environmental impact, safety and low recovery percentage plagued small-scale mining enterprises. In response, the Government had enacted a mine law and had instituted mining licence departments to supervise the industry. The delegation also mentioned that its country had developed light-weight, low-energy tunnelling equipment, which could be shared with developing countries.

53. One delegation criticized the conclusions of the report, indicating that they needed clarification, and recommended that the Committee make better use of experts in elaborating criteria for the technical assistance to be provided in the sector on a multilateral basis.

54. Concerning the report on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources, one delegation said that the report gave a comprehensive overview of the mining sector and that the statistics contained in the report coincided with statistics compiled by his Government. However, the report lacked figures on Eastern Europe. In view of the ongoing changes in the economies of Eastern European countries, it would be desirable for those countries to give and receive statistics.

55. Another delegation suggested that future reporting on trends and prospects in the mineral sector should present forecast figures according to several hypothetical scenarios of macroeconomic evolution for the world economy, examine those scenarios and propose estimates for commodities production, consumption and price forecasts that would be expected as a result of one scenario or another. The delegation further suggested that the Committee look into a broader range of issues, including new and substitute materials, recycling and such environmental issues as solid waste disposal, water supply, air pollution and ground subsidence, as they related to mining.

Action taken by the Committee

Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources

56. At the 8th meeting, on 2 April, the observer for Ghana, 16/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.8) entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources", which read as follows:

> The Economic and Social Council,
>
> Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session (General Assembly resolution S-18/3), and the policies and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199),

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16/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling its resolutions 1985/47 of 25 July 1985, 1987/8 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/5 of 22 May 1989 concerning mineral resources,

Stressing the significance of mineral resources in the economic and social development of the developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of adequate financing mechanisms for the exploration and development of the mineral resources of the developing countries,

Reaffirming the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Recognizing the need to ensure substantial flows of financial resources and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms to developing countries to enable them to explore and develop their mineral resources,

Acknowledging the important role that the United Nations system can play in the field of mineral resources, through, inter alia, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the invaluable impact of small-scale mining on the economic and social development process of the developing countries and its identification as an economic activity providing significant employment opportunities,

Aware of the need to balance small-scale mining operations with the improvement of social working conditions and benefits and the consideration of health and safety hazards,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" (E/C.7/1991/4) and "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities" (E/C.7/1991/5);

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means to increase the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms to the developing countries in order to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sector;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report a proposal outlining the feasibility and costs of establishing an investment promotion service within the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat to support the efforts of developing countries in securing investments they require for the development of their mineral resources;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report the conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars relating to mineral resources, in particular the Conference on Mining and Environment, to be held

in Berlin in June 1991, including the feasibility of establishing geological information systems in developing countries to assist the development of mineral resources, for consideration of and follow-up action by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Natural Resources on successful small-scale mining activities in developing countries, on progress achieved in the establishment of demonstration and training projects for the transfer of small-scale mining technology and methods and on national approaches and international cooperation for maximizing the benefits of small-scale mining for economic and social development in developing countries, including information on the economic contribution of women in small-scale mining.

57. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.18) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.8.

58. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.18 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

59. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.18, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.8 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Chapter V

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

60. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 28 March and 3 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/C.7/1991/6).

61. The report was introduced and reviewed by the Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, who concluded her remarks by noting that the Department was ready to increase its cooperation with other members of the United Nations in providing developing countries with the information, advisory services and training necessary to help them develop suitable policies to ensure faster economic growth while adhering to the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

62. The Chairman noted that the report provided the Committee with the information it had requested at its eleventh session.

63. One delegation said that the report should have been distributed to Committee members earlier, so as to give them sufficient time to study it and make the necessary comments. He pointed out that the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources had been consistently invoked by developing countries since 1952 and reflected concern with their economic development. In 1974, when the principle was validated by international law, it had been invoked by the developing countries in the renegotiation of contracts during the transitional period from colonial to independent status. More recently, the exercise of the right to permanent sovereignty had focused on means of attracting foreign investment. The delegation noted that at its eleventh session the Committee had emphasized the scarcity of financial resources for investment. The national investment policies of developing countries did not adequately address the concerns of investors, who did not want to undertake prospecting under uncertain conditions. Thus there was considerable need for information services in the field of natural resources. The delegation strongly supported detailed mineral feasibility studies in developing countries and the establishment of a database within the United Nations containing information on available mineral and petroleum investment opportunities in developing countries. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had launched such a project focusing on industrial investment opportunities. The delegation said that in order for the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources to be meaningful and attract investment, developing countries needed valid legal contracts and sound legislation; the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development could play an important role in providing the services necessary for developing standard legal contracts and for promoting investment in and efficient management of mineral resources in developing countries.

64. Another delegation focused on the relationship between permanent sovereignty over natural resources, sustainable development and global environmental concerns. The principle of sovereignty was totally compatible with other important principles, such as the responsibility of the State for environmental protection or for damage inflicted by it. The need for new, sound, alternative, energy-efficient technology was crucial in order to curb environmental damage and promote

sustainable development. The delegation pointed out that transnational corporations had the requisite technology, but developing countries faced difficulties acquiring it due to economic costs and lack of access. According to that delegation, private corporations could often gain access through joint ventures, but the institutional apparatus of the State was different. New, clean technology was understood to have three features: reasonable cost, guaranteed access and technical information. The delegation suggested that appropriate international mechanisms be set up for transfer of new, clean technology for mitigating environmental consequences. Questions of intellectual property should not constitute an obstacle to access to clean technologies. Developing countries should, nevertheless, enhance and develop their indigenous capacity to create and develop sound technology.

65. It was felt that international cooperation (and the financial resources required) should be mobilized to ensure that developing countries were provided with the information, advisory services and training they needed to assist them to develop and implement policies for ensuring economic growth while adhering to the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources and of sustainable development. Sustainable mining could contribute to sustainable development and international cooperation on global economic concerns.

Action taken by the Committee

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

66. At the 9th meeting, on 3 April, the observer for Ghana, 17/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.10) entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources" which read as follows:

> The Economic and Social Council,
>
> Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 3/ and the policies and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/
>
> Recalling its resolutions 1987/12 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/10 of 22 May 1989,
>
> Reaffirming the right of developing countries to determine freely the use of their natural resources as a right inherent in their sovereignty,
>
> Stressing the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to make optimum economic use of their natural resources in order to strengthen and promote their economic and social development,

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17/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Concerned about the present international economic situation, in particular its impact on developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/C.7/1991/6);

2. Reaffirms the importance of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

3. Affirms that investment in natural resources development should be in consonance with the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources and in accordance with interests, attitudes, strategies and national development plans, priorities and objectives;

4. Encourages the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat to continue and further strengthen its advisory services, at the request of Governments, in support of the exercise by Governments of their inalienable right of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, inter alia, in the field of exploration, development and management of natural resources, on policy and planning, on legislation and taxation, on contract negotiation and contract auditing and management and on investment promotion and financing, and to continue organizing seminars to bring together experts and representatives of international companies and developing countries;

5. Requests the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, which is the focal point on matters related to transnational corporations and which is concerned with the whole range of issues that arise in dealing with relations between host countries and transnational corporations in various sectors, to continue providing information/analysis to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries, based on the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, to use their natural resources for development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a concise, updated report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

67. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.20) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.10.

68. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.20 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

69. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.20, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.10 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

70. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

Chapter VI

NEW TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING, FOR IDENTIFYING, EXPLORING FOR AND ASSESSING NATURAL RESOURCES

71. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 5th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 28 March and 3 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data (E/C.7/1991/7).

72. The representative of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development introduced the report. He informed the Committee of two activities of the Natural Resources and Energy Division related to remote sensing: a seminar on the receiving and processing of digital satellite data, to be held in Berlin in 1991, and a United Nations seminar to be held during the Congress for the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, in Washington, D.C., in September 1992. The Division had also serviced the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in February/March 1991.

73. One delegation noted that the report contained interesting information which would assist countries to obtain data on their natural resources through existing national and international remote-sensing systems. It also noted with satisfaction that the Department had fulfilled, at a high technical level, the request made by the Committee on Natural Resources and the Economic and Social Council on the subject. However, it noted that section III of the report was of a general nature and did not contain concrete information on existing projects or on criteria for developing new projects. The delegation therefore suggested that the Committee request the United Nations Secretariat to prepare a report providing that information for submission to the Committee at its thirteenth session.

74. The Committee was informed of the collaborative efforts in the application of remote sensing for natural resources assessment and environmental monitoring being undertaken in the Asia and Pacific region by ESCAP with the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. Those efforts were carried out by ESCAP through its UNDP-funded Regional Remote Sensing Programme. Action had been taken by the ESCAP secretariat for the continuation of activities under the United Nations regular budget.

Action taken by the Committee

New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources

75. At the 9th meeting, on 3 April, the observer for Ghana, 18/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.11) entitled "New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources", which read as follows:

18/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth session (General Assembly resolution S-18/3), and the policies and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 on principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1987/9 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/8 of 22 May 1989,

Bearing in mind the important role of remote-sensing data in the process of identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources,

Reaffirming the need for developing countries to have access to the information obtained by remote sensing in order to optimize the use of their natural resources,

Stressing the contribution that developed countries can make in assisting the developing countries to integrate satellite remote-sensing data into their national mapping programmes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data (E/C.7/1991/7);

2. Calls upon the developed countries to share more of their technical capacity in remote sensing with the developing countries;

3. Recommends that the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Outer Space Affairs Division and with the assistance of satellite launching States and organizations, to compile, for dissemination to developing countries, information on new data sets and the conditions under which such data can be obtained and the modalities for doing so;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to strengthen the capability of the developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques for the identification and subsequent exploration, exploitation and development of natural resources through workshops, seminars and training courses to be organized at the regional or country level in developing countries;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

76. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.21) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.11.

77. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.21 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI).

78. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.21, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.11 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Chapter VII

COORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

79. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 7th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 1, 3 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources (E/C.7/1989/10).

80. During the discussion, delegations expressed their appreciation of the comprehensiveness and high quality of the information contained in the report. They took note, in particular, of the conclusions concerning the fact that the activities of the United Nations system were in accord with the guidelines adopted by the Committee at its second session and subsequently elaborated in the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 19/ the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (see General Assembly resolution 35/18) and the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. 20/ It was also noted that the rational management and the proper and effective utilization of natural resources were closely linked to the preservation and enhancement of the environment and that the Committee, in the light of its priorities, had an important role to play in promoting international cooperation towards that objective. Intensified cooperation and assistance at the international level were also necessary in support of the developing countries' own efforts to create a favourable internal environment that would enable them to maintain, conserve and develop their natural resources.

81. One delegation stated that the Committee should take a more active stand in the preparatory process of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Another delegation called for the strengthening of the programme-coordination function of the Committee.

Action taken by the Committee

Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

82. At the 9th meeting, on 3 April, the observer for Ghana, 21/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77,

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19/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

20/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

21/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.12) entitled "Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources", which read as follows:

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind section I of General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and, in particular, programme 19 of the medium-term plan, on natural resources,

Recalling its resolutions 1987/13 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/12 of 22 May 1989,

Convinced of the need to increase the effectiveness and relevance of the work of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,

Stressing the crucial role of natural resources for economic growth and development, particularly that of the developing countries,

Welcoming the increased coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources, particularly in water resources,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources (E/C.7/1991/10);

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the regional commissions, to submit a consolidated report to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session on salient issues concerning natural resources, including an assessment of the financial requirements of developing countries during the 1990s for optimal development of their natural resources;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the coordination mechanisms on water and sanitation issues, including the inter-agency Steering Committee for Cooperative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to extend the coordination mechanisms established on water resource issues to the energy and mineral sectors, including active participation by the World Bank, regional development banks and the regional commissions;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a consolidated report on the impact of relevant decisions emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of natural resources for priority consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of providing facilities similar to those provided to members of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to members of the Committee on Natural Resources;

7. Requests the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources to hold informal consultations, within existing resources, on issues and developments relevant to the work of the Committee, with a view to suggesting items for consideration at its forthcoming sessions.

83. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.22) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.12.

84. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.22 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII).

85. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.22, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.12 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Chapter VIII

DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION IN DEVELOPING AND UTILIZING NATURAL RESOURCES

86. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 5th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 28 March and 3 and 5 April 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system concerning disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources (E/C.7/1991/11).

87. The representative of the Interorganizational Cooperation Section of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs introduced the report.

88. One delegation stated that the activities in the area of disaster prevention and mitigation had been incorporated in the five-year plan of economic and social development of its country, as well as in the programme of action for the 1990s of its Geological Society. It described some of the projects under implementation and the cooperation of its Government with other countries. In its view, the global and regional organizations should improve their activities in coping with the problems under consideration.

89. Another delegation expressed the view that the report was useful and could serve as the basis for the future study of the problem and for widening the relevant activities of the United Nations system and Governments. It expressed concern that the report did not cover the activities of certain organizations of the system, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe, which was very active in "liquidating" the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

90. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific described the activities of the Commission in disaster prevention and mitigation, which were carried out mainly under the guidelines of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. They included, inter alia, seminars, missions to separate countries, mapping, projects in land use, and water and forest development.

91. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization provided updated information regarding activities of the organization related to natural disaster prevention and mitigation and, in particular, on the three projects prepared as contribution to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. It was mentioned that the Steering Committee for the Decade had endorsed the projects at its first session (Bonn, March 1991). It was expected that countries would contribute to the implementation of the projects, in close collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

Action taken by the Committee

Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources

92. At the 9th meeting, on 3 April, the observer for Ghana, 22/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, orally proposed the following draft decision entitled "Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources":

> The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system concerning disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources (E/C.7/1991/11), requests the Secretary-General to coordinate the activities being undertaken by the organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, as they relate to disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources, and to report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session.

93. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft decision (E/C.7/1991/L.23) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations held on the draft decision proposed orally at the 9th meeting.

94. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision E/C.7/1991/L.23 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

95. In the light of the adoption of draft decision E/C.7/1991/L.23, the draft decision proposed orally was withdrawn.

22/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter IX

UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION

96. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 6th, 8th and 10th meetings, on 28 March and 2 and 5 April 1991. It had before it an advance copy of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (DP/1991/44).

97. In his introductory statement, the Director of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration informed the Committee about the recent activities of the Fund. There had been two significant developments during the past two years. The first dealt with donor involvement. The Governments of Belgium, China and Italy had started making regular contributions to the Fund. The Fund had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Geology of the Soviet Union for the joint financing of mineral exploration projects in developing countries. The first such joint project would be initiated in Africa late in 1991. The Government of Norway had supported the newly completed study on environmental guidelines for the Fund's project activities. Experts from the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank had participated in the study.

98. The second development was that the Fund had signed an Agreement on Replenishment with the Government of the Philippines. Accordingly, it had received its first replenishment payment early in 1991. That had resulted from the Fund's successful chromite exploration project on Dinagat Island in Surigao, and was one of the most significant and encouraging events in the Fund's history, since it validated the original design of revolvability which the General Assembly established in founding the Fund's activities. Mention was also made of the successful discovery of a high-grade silver deposit in San Bartolome, Ecuador, with the active participation of the Fund.

99. The Committee noted that the Fund had received only one third of the voluntary contributions originally envisioned. None the less, the Fund had succeeded in discovering economic mineral deposits throughout the developing world with an _in situ_ value of approximately $US 1.5 billion. The members of the Committee were reminded that the Fund required continuous donor support until such time as replenishment payments reached a viable level.

100. The donor community was strongly urged to renew its financial assistance to the Fund, since the size of current activities would determine the level of the revolving funds available for underwriting future exploration projects.

101. One delegation expressed its appreciation to the Director of the Fund for his strong leadership and for the effort he had made to promote the projects of the Fund, despite the financial difficulties it had been facing. That delegation noted with great pleasure the first replenishment payment from the Government of the Philippines. It expressed its appreciation of the wider geographical distribution of the Fund's activities and of the fact that they were directed towards exploration for a variety of minerals and energy resources. It also noted the

Fund's efforts to streamline and thereby strengthen its management through integration with the management of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development while at the same time taking care to preserve its own identity and operating procedures. The delegation urged potential donor countries to provide assistance to the Fund.

102. Another delegation highly commended the professionalism of the implementation of the Fund's projects. The aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding was noted with great pleasure. Hope was expressed that the cooperation with the Fund to be initiated in the United Republic of Tanzania would be extended and strengthened in the future.

103. Another delegation thanked the Administrator of UNDP for his report on the Fund and stated that it was much encouraged by the progress of the Fund in every aspect of its activities. It hoped that the directorate of the Fund would disseminate further information about the achievements and experience of Fund projects in developing countries.

Action taken by the Committee

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

104. At the 8th meeting, on 2 April, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, 23/ Japan, Mongolia and Suriname, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.7) entitled "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration". Subsequently, China and the Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

> The Economic and Social Council,
>
> Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVII) of 17 December 1973 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, concerning the establishment of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,
>
> Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 87/11 of 26 May 1987 and 89/9 of 22 May 1989,
>
> Recognizing the important role of the Fund in providing assistance to developing countries in the development of their natural resources,
>
> Noting the efforts made to sustain the activities of the Fund despite limited financial support,

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23/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Noting also the requirement of continued financial support for the Fund, bearing in mind the need to ensure its revolving nature through replenishment contributions,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (DP/1991/44);

2. Welcomes the first replenishment payment obtained from the Government of the Philippines through the exploitation of a chromite deposit discovered by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, and notes the active participation of the Fund in connection with the successful discovery of a high-grade silver deposit in Ecuador;

3. Takes note of the efforts made to reduce administrative costs by integrating the management of the Fund with that of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development;

4. Calls upon Member States to consider increasing their financial support for the Fund, in particular by means of voluntary contributions.

105. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.17) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.7.

106. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.17 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII).

107. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.17, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.7 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Chapter X

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

108. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 7th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 1, 3 and 5 April 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programmes of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in natural resources and energy for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/C.7/1991/CRP.1).

109. One delegation said that the proposed programme of work seemed to be a compact, self-sufficient programme; coordination with the rest of the United Nations system was not highlighted. The same delegation indicated that preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development were the focus of global attention and that the Committee on Natural Resources should take a stronger stance with respect to the preparations for the Conference, since natural resources and energy were part and parcel of the environment. It was the view of the delegation that the Committee should make recommendations to the Conference relating to environmental issues associated with water resources, minerals and energy. It was noted that the work programme could be changed in the light of decisions taken at the Conference in 1992. The work programme for the biennium 1992-1993 reflected an increasing emphasis on efficiency in the use of natural resources.

110. The same delegation made a number of suggestions regarding the proposed programmes of work contained in the note by the Secretary-General. It suggested that subprogramme 1 of programme 20 (Energy) be renamed "Monitoring and analysis of global energy trends and of prospective impacts on the environment and development". It also proposed that the emphasis be changed in subprogramme 1 (Coordination in the field of water resources) of programme 19 (Natural resources) so that the text would start with the words "Coordination and promotion of the cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system" instead of the words "The promotion of cooperation and coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system". It also suggested the inclusion in the activities of subprogramme 4 of programme 20 of a technical publication on the state of the mineral raw-material base of the coal-mining industry in the countries of the world (fourth quarter, 1992) and/or a technical publication containing a forecast of major trends in the development of the mineral raw-material base of the world coal-mining industry to the year 2010 (second quarter, 1993). It also requested the deletion from the title of subprogramme 6 of programme 20 of the words "Development and transfer of science and technology" and suggested a possible new title, "Popularization of knowledge for acquaintance with new technologies in energy".

111. The same delegation highlighted the need for examining the interrelationship between major mining companies and smaller enterprises in developing countries. It stressed the importance of mining legislation for small-scale mining and proposed the convening of a small expert group meeting to develop criteria for small-scale mining.

Action taken by the Committee

Panel of experts on natural resources

112. At the 9th meeting, on 3 April, the observer for Ghana, 24/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/C.7/1991/L.14) entitled "Panel of experts on natural resources", which read as follows:

> The Economic and Social Council,
>
> Mindful of the need to optimize the functions of the Committee on Natural Resources in order for it to discharge its responsibilities,
>
> Decides to convene, on an experimental basis and within existing resources, a panel of experts on natural resources, as follows:
>
> (a) Six experts, two per item, would be invited by the Secretary-General to address trends and salient issues on energy, water and mineral resources;
>
> (b) The panel would be convened in early September 1992;
>
> (c) The panel would meet for two days; the normal eight-day duration of the session of the Committee would be adjusted accordingly;
>
> (d) A technical report based on the panel discussion would be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated for consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources six weeks before the commencement of its thirteenth session.

113. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft decision (E/C.7/1991/L.24) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.14.

114. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision E/C.7/1991/L.24 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 12/101).

115. In the light of the adoption of draft decision E/C.7/1991/L.24, draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.14 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

24/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter XI

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

116. The Committee considered item 12 of its agenda at its 10th meeting, on 5 April 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for its thirteenth session together with a list of requested documentation (E/C.7/1991/L.15).

117. At the same meeting, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirteenth session (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III).

118. Statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Denmark, France and Germany.

Chapter XII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION

119. At its 10th meeting, on 5 April 1991, the Committee adopted the report on its twelfth session (E/C.7/1991/L.4 and Add.1-9), as amended during the discussion.

Strengthening of the Committee on Natural Resources

120. On 2 April, on the recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee held an informal exchange of views on the future role of the Committee on Natural Resources in the light of the efforts being carried out in the United Nations system to revitalize the United Nations in the economic and social fields, bearing in mind that the Committee was a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

121. At the 10th meeting, on 5 April, the Chairman read out a summary of the informal exchange of views.

122. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to bring the text of that summary to the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council.

123. The observer for Ghana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, made a statement.

Chapter XIII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

124. The Committee on Natural Resources held its twelfth session at United Nations Headquarters from 25 March to 5 April 1991. It held 10 meetings (1st-10th meetings).

125. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Cooperation for Development. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

B. Membership and attendance

126. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 A (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Committee is composed of 54 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Six members from African States, six members from Asian States and eight members from Western European and other States remain to be elected.

127. The following States members of the Committee were represented: Brazil, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chad, Chile, China, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lesotho, Mongolia, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay.

128. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

129. The Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia were represented.

130. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Meteorological Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

131. The International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, was also represented.

C. Election of officers

132. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 25 and 26 March 1991, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Francis Eric Aguilar-Hecht (Guatemala)

Vice-Chairmen: Lennarth Hjelmaker (Sweden)
Etienne Mamfoumbi (Gabon)
Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania)

D. Agenda and organization of work

133. At its 1st meeting, on 25 March, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the session (E/C.7/1991/1), as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Energy resources.
4. Water resources.
5. Mineral resources.
6. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources.
7. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources.
8. Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources.
9. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources.
10. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.
11. Programme questions.
12. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee.
13. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twelfth session.

134. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session (E/C.7/1991/L.1).

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
DP/1991/44 a/	10	Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
E/C.7/1991/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/C.7/1991/2		[symbol not used]
E/C.7/1991/3		[symbol not used]
E/C.7/1991/4	5	Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources - A review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/5	5	Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/6	6	Permanent sovereignty over natural resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/7	7	Information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/8	4	Strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/9	3	Trends and salient issues in energy resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/10	8	Activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/11	9	Activities of the United Nations system concerning disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources: report of the Secretary-General

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a/ Advance copy available in English only during the session.

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1991/12	3	Energy-saving strategies and measures to improve the efficient utilization of electric power systems: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/13	3	Technical cooperation programmes on the exploration, development and efficient use of energy resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/CRP.1	11	Proposed programme of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in natural resources and energy for the biennium 1992-1993: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1991/L.1	2	Organization of work: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1991/L.2	2	Status of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1991/L.3	4	Denmark and Sweden: draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.4 and Add.1-9	13	Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/1991/L.5	4	Draft resolution proposed by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.3
E/C.7/1991/L.6	3	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.7	10	Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia and Suriname: draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.8	5	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.9	4	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.10	6	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.11	7	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1991/L.12	8	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.13		[not formally considered]
E/C.7/1991/L.14	11	Ghana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77): draft resolution
E/C.7/1991/L.15	12	Draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1991/L.16	3	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.6
E/C.7/1991/L.17	10	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.7
E/C.7/1991/L.18	5	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.8
E/C.7/1991/L.19	4	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.9
E/C.7/1991/L.20	6	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.10
E/C.7/1991/L.21	7	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.11
E/C.7/1991/L.22	8	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.12
E/C.7/1991/L.23	9	Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1991/L.24	11	Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.14

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